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TESTIMONY OF RICHARD J. BARLOW
FIRST SELECTMAN
TOWN OF CANTON

ON RAISED BILL NO.333
AN ACT CONCERNING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONNECTICUT RESOURCES
RECOVERY AUTHORITY'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Submitted to the Committee on Energy and Technology
March 16, 2012

The Town of Canton supports the intent of Raised Bill No.333 which would modify the membership of the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority's Board of Directors to provide increased membership by municipal officials. The Town of Canton does, however recommend that (1) only nine rather than ten members be elected by the vote of the member municipalities and that one member be designated by the City of Hartford, (2) that the condition that no more than six of the ten municipal directors be from the authority's Mid-Connecticut Project be deleted and (3) that the effective date of enactment be changed until October 1, 2012 to provide adequate time for the Board transition.

Presently municipal customers are charged rates based on the net cost of operation. In response to a growing concern regarding the lack of fiscal control over the CRRA administrative, central office and operational expenses the Mid Conn project municipalities have pressed for more direct control of the Authority operations. Raised Bill No. 33 would adequately address that concern.

The Authority has in the past several years lost control of the operations of the Bridgeport and Wallingford projects as the operators of these facilities have exercised their contractual rights to acquire ownership of these facilities. Currently, the Authority operates the Mid-Connecticut project which services seventy municipalities and the Southeast project with twelve municipal users. The Authority provides recycling services for eighteen municipalities in the Southwest Division (formally the Bridgeport project) and has control of portions of the capacity at the Bridgeport project. In total the Authority services one hundred of the state's 169 towns and cities. However, in the near future the Authority will lose control of the Southeast project which has twelve municipal members and not all existing members of the Mid-Connecticut project have chosen to renew their contracts which expire this November. Given the ever changing composition of member towns it is not appropriate to limit the Mid-Connecticut membership since all towns having a contractual relationship with the authority would be eligible to vote for the municipal directors.

In closing, the municipal users of the Authority services are more appropriately qualified to make the decisions which have direct economic and service requirements on them as customers of the Authority. Raised Bill No. 333 will give these municipalities the ability to control operations necessary to achieve the solid waste and recycling requirements mandated by the State in the most cost effective manner.